



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/857,474	09/10/2001	Harald Schopp	West.6189	4919

50811 7590 09/10/2007
O'SHEA, GETZ & KOSAKOWSKI, P.C.
1500 MAIN ST.
SUITE 912
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01115

EXAMINER

BUI, KIEU OANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

09/10/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/857,474	Applicant(s) SCHOPP ET AL.	
	Examiner KIEU-OANH BUI	Art Unit 2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/16/2007 has been entered.

Remark

2. Claims 7-10 and 18 have been cancelled, and claims 21-22 have been added. Claims 6, 11-17 and 19-22 are pending for reconsideration.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 6, 11-17 and 19-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2623

5. Claims 6, 11-17, and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edens et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,611,537 B1) in view of Rostoker et al. (U.S. Patent 5,856,975).

Regarding claims 6 and 20, Edens discloses an optical ring network for use in homes, motor vehicle and other environments (Fig. 1, and col. 13/lines 24-40) comprises an optical data line configured in a ring network (as illustrated in Fig. 1/item 120 for a ring network and/or Fig. 7 for a clearer ring topology, and col. 13/lines 40-55 with optical fiber cable is used, refer to col. 15/lines 52-60), and provides compressed multimedia data onto the optical data line (col. 13/lines 55-65 as MPEG2 stream is compressed and delivered to the logical ring network 120); and at least one data sink connected to the optical data line and comprises a video display device, i.e., a CD/DVD player or multimedia PC equipped with a monitor for displaying of Fig. 1, at least one data source (satellite received at DSS tuner and FM broadcasting received at FM tuner of Fig. 1), and that for receiving the compressed signal and the data sink includes a bit stream decoder to decompress the received compressed multimedia data and provide it to the video display device (for playing) (refer to Fig. 1, and col. 14/lines 7-23 for MPEG decoder 151, 161 for decoding the compressed multimedia data to display on the television).

In addition, Edens further teaches “wherein the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed data, where the format of the received compressed data may be one of a plurality of compressed formats”, i.e., a multimedia PC 170 can be functioned as a controller in controlling devices to adapt to transmit and receive digital media to/and from other network devices according to formats, types, or

Art Unit: 2623

protocols (col. 14/lines 8-51 & col. 15/line 60 to col. 16/line 11), and even different compressed formats, refer to col. 34/lines 1-15 for compressed MPEG1 and compressed MPEG2 and so on, and more details on MPEG1 and MPEG2, see col. 102/line 56 to col. 104/line 18. It is clear that more than one compressed format is used in addition to other formats such as serial data, TCP/IP packets for real-time continuous data streams.

Edens does suggest the playback device connected to the optical data line and the decompression step thereof to the playback transducer via the optical data line (col. 15/lines 51-60). Applicants strangely argue that Edens' CD/DVD players are not playback devices for receiving decompressed data for playing back as the video display does (page 9) (this might be incorrect); however, in order to brighten up the issue, Rostoker comes into play to further teach a system as shown in Figs. 1 & 3 with more details components for processing video and audio with video decoder (344) and audio decoder (345) before presenting the compressed multimedia data to the display 307 (Fig. 3); and the network architecture system as shown in Fig. 3 can be used in token ring network with compression/decompression techniques (col. 4/lines 34-60 & col. 34/lines 47-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Eden's ring network with an optical data line connected to multimedia PC or electronics devices in order to support high speed signal propagation or high bandwidth to any transmission media as taught by Edens. In addition, with the disclosure of Rostoker as noted, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Eden's ring network with detailed video and audio components for handling compressed multimedia data before providing them to the display device for viewing.

Art Unit: 2623

(Claims 7-10 were cancelled).

As for claim 11, Edens further teaches wherein the bit stream decoder includes an MPEG decoder, JPEG decoder and an AC decoder (col. 14/lines 7-23 for MPEG and AC-3 decoders and a JPEG decoder is also suggested to include as computer graphics images can be viewed on the LCD screen).

As for claim 12, Edens further discloses wherein the at least one data source includes a radio tuner (Fig. 1/item 130 for a FM radio tuner).

As for claim 13, Edens further discloses to include a second data source that includes a DVD player connected to the logical ring network to provide compressed data onto the optical data line (Fig. 1/item 180 for a DVD is connected to ring network 120).

As for claim 14, Edens teaches this limitation as DSP 152 is configured to control the selectively configuration as one of decoders MPEG, JPEG and/or AC-3 accordingly (col. 14/lines 7-40).

Regarding claim 15, Edens' reference reads on this claim, refer to claims 6-8, and 12-13 above, not limited to the cited paragraphs above but also to the entire disclosure of Edens' reference. In addition, Edens further teaches "wherein the at least one data sink includes a control unit that selectively adapts the decompression of the received compressed multimedia data by the bit stream decoder based upon the compression format of the received compressed data, where the format of the received compressed data may be one of a plurality of compressed formats", i.e., a multimedia PC 170 can be functioned as a controller in controlling devices to adapt to transmit and receive digital media to/and from other network devices according to formats, types, or protocols (col. 14/lines 8-51 & col. 15/line 60 to col. 16/line 11), and even

Art Unit: 2623

different compressed formats, refer to col. 34/lines 1-15 for compressed MPEG1 and compressed MPEG2 and so on, and more details on MPEG1 and MPEG2, see col. 102/line 56 to col. 104/line 18. It is clear that more than one compressed format is used in addition to other formats such as serial data, TCP/IP packets for real-time continuous data streams.

Edens does suggest the playback device connected to the optical data line and the decompression step thereof to the playback transducer via the optical data line (col. 15/lines 51-60). Applicants strangely argue that Edens' CD/DVD players are not playback devices for receiving decompressed data for playing back as the video display does (page 9) (this might be incorrect); however, in order to brighten up the issue, Rostoker comes into play to further teach a system as shown in Figs. 1 & 3 with more details components for processing video and audio with video decoder (344) and audio decoder (345) before presenting the compressed multimedia data to the display 307 (Fig. 3); and the network architecture system as shown in Fig. 3 can be used in token ring network with compression/decompression techniques (col. 4/lines 34-60 & col. 34/lines 47-64). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Eden's ring network with an optical data line connected to multimedia PC or electronics devices in order to support high speed signal propagation or high bandwidth to any transmission media as taught by Edens. In addition, with the disclosure of Rostoker as noted, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Eden's ring network with detailed video and audio components for handling compressed multimedia data before providing them to the display device for viewing.

Art Unit: 2623

As for claims 16-17 and 19, Edens discloses these features, refer to claims 11-14 as disclosed above.

(Claim 18 was cancelled).

As for claim 21, Edens discloses wherein the system further comprising a loudspeaker that receives the decompressed audio data (speakers 153, 154, 156, 157, 158 for Fig. 1, col. 14/lines 7-23).

As for claim 22, Edens further teaches wherein the bit stream decoder includes an MPEG decoder (col. 14/lines 7-23 for MPEG decoder).

Conclusion

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to PTO New Central Fax number:

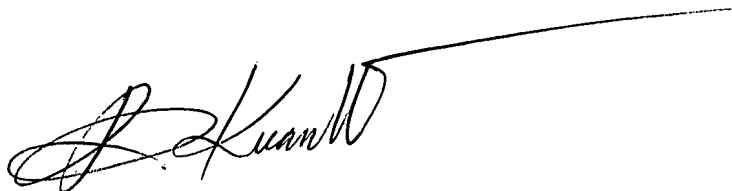
(571) 273-8300, (for Technology Center 2600 only)

*Hand deliveries must be made to Customer Service Window,
Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.*

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-7291. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM to 7:00 PM.

Art Unit: 2623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kieu-Oanh Bui", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kieu-Oanh Bui
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2623

KB

August 24, 2007